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Letter dated 9 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to a bombing that occurred yesterday in the heart of Jerusalem.

Shortly before 5 p.m. local time, a car bomb exploded in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Beit Yisrael. One woman was lightly injured and evacuated to a nearby hospital; nine other passers-by were treated for shock. The blast, which sent smoke billowing over the city, comes after Israeli security services received warnings from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror organizations of plans to carry out a bomb attack today.

Today's bombing is merely the latest in a steady series of attacks which have targeted Israeli civilians in recent months. Terrorist groups have been responsible for ambushing Israelis as they travel on roads, bombings of public places, abductions and cold-blooded murders. These incidents, the number of which has sharply risen in recent weeks, have been detailed in a number of letters addressed to you, most recently, my letters dated 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2001252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108), and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065). Over 50 Israelis have been killed since the outbreak of violence in late September 2000.

Since the start of hostilities last year, the Palestinian Authority has done virtually nothing to halt the violence and terrorism directed against Israel. On the contrary, the Palestinian leadership has actively encouraged this behaviour through incitement in the media and the release of convicted terrorist prisoners from Palestinian Authority jails. Such conduct stands in stark contrast to Chairman Yassir Arafat's signed commitment of 9 September 1993, in which he renounced the use of violence and resolved to ensure the compliance of all elements and personnel under his authority with this principle.

The failure of Chairman Arafat to abide by this commitment has directly contributed to the outbreak of violence and to the proliferation of terrorist attacks in

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recent months. Israel calls upon the Palestinian leadership to abide by its written commitments to halt all violence directed against Israeli soldiers and civilians.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative